

Message Text

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R 100217Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, NZ, CW

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH THE COOK ISLANDS

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM DEPARTMENT CONCERNING
ABILITY OF COOK ISLANDS TO SIGN PC AGREEMENT, FOLLOWING
LETTER WAS RECEIVED FROM NZ EMBASSY, WASHINGTON. QUOTE:

FURTHER TO OUR CONVERSATIONS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED
ESTABLISHMENT OF A US PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN THE COOK
ISLANDS, I AM WRITING TO CONFIRM THAT GIVEN THE CONSTITU-
TIONAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND THE COOKS UNDER
WHICH THE LATTER HAS INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN FREE ASSO-
CIATION WITH NEW ZEALAND, THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT EN-
DORSES THE PROPRIETY OF THE COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT SIGNING
ON ITS OWN BEHALF AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE ABOVE-
MENTIONED PROGRAMME. END QUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES CLEARER STATEMENT OF COOK ISLANDS
LEGAL AUTHORITY TO SIGN AGREEMENT IS NECESSARY. EMBASSY IS
REQUESTED CONTACT MFA AND REQUEST STATEMENT OF NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT THAT COOK ISLANDS HAS LEGAL AUTHORITY TO SIGN
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SUCH AN AGREEMENT UNDER THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

WITH NEW ZEALAND. IF MFA UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH A STATE-
MENT, WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE NEW ZEALAND SIGN OR AT LEAST
CO-SIGN AGREEMENT. ROBINSON

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